Public (General-A) (1947) Department.

Ms SERIES.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Assembly question - April 1947 No.613 starred - Report of Sri D.V.Ramaswami, M.L.A on rehabilitation and compensatio for lossess sustained by Madrissis during riots at Calcutta in [illegible]

LOSSES TO SOUTH INDIANS IN COMMUNAL TROUBLES IN BENGAL.

*613 Q.-- Dr. M.J.SAMUEL (on behalf of Sri G. Ven-kata Reddi) Will the Hon. Prime Minister be pleased to state--

(a) whether it is a fact that an hon. Member of this House has been sent to Calcutta to enquire into the loss of person and property incurred by South Inidans in Bengal in the recent communal troubles:

(b) if so, whether he has submitted any report to the Government;

(c) if the reply is in the affirmative, what were the losses in respect of person and ;property;

(d) whether the Government propose to give any relief to the victims; and

(e) what steps the Government propose to take to protect the rights of the South Indians in other Provinces?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "(a) & (b) Yes

"(c) The lossess in respect of property of persons who filed their claims before the Hon. Member were approximately Rs.9 lakhs. He received information of only one case of loss of life

(d) & (e) The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB Bahadur:- "May I know what was the amount spent in this matter by the Government?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:-" I must cause an enquiry to be made, because the bills have not yet been settled."

MUHAMMAD RAZAKHAN SAHIB Bahadur. "May I ask, Sir, how was it that only one M.L.A. instead of two or three was sent to collect information regarding loss of life and property?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "Evidently the Government thought that he would be in a position to make the enquiry alone."

SRI M.G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:-"May I ask, Sir, whether the report will be placed on the table of the House for the information of hon. Members?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:-"I will consider the matter after the Government have gone through the report."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB Bahadur:- " May I ask whether it is the policy of the Government to depute only one non-official Member for making enquiries of this serious nature and if that is so, may I know whether this was done on the application of the Member or whether the Government deputed him SUO MOTU?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "I do not think it was done on the application of the Member. Whether one M.L.A or two M.L.As. should be nominated is a matter entirely for the consideration of the Government."

ADBUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB Bahadur:- " In matters involving communal troubles, may I ask whether it is safe for the Government that only one non-official member belonging to one community and one party is deputed?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "I do not accept the premise of the hon. Member. I think every one is capable of making an enquiry and I do not think any communal considerations come into this matter at all ".

SRI M.G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:- " May I ask whether the Hon. the Leader of the House is aware that troubles are still going on and whether any steps have been taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of South Indians in Bengal?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:-" Hon. Members of this House must realize that we are part of India and anything that happens in another part of the country is a matter for the Provincial Government concerned. All that we do is to represent to the Central Government that some of the provincials of this area are suffering under the circumstances that prevail there. No more than that can be done, because neither Bengal nor Madras is independent of India".

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB Bahadur:- "May I know whether the Government are actively considering the grant of any compensation towards the losses sustained and if so, whether the Government will give an assurance that no amonnt will be spent before an opportunity is given to this House to discuss the matter?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "As for as the Government are concerned, I think it is a very wrong premise to begin with the idea that when a riot occurs somewhere in the Province compensation will be paid. It will be an INSURANCE to rioting. So there will be no question of compensation at all".

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB Bahadur:-"May I ask the Hon. Minister what were the losses suffered by this hon. Member?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "I do not think the hon. Member suffered any losses, because he was not present in Calcutta then nor does he possess any property in Calcutta."

MOHAMED RAFEEUDIN AHMED ANSARI SAHIB Bahadur:- "May I ask whether the Government propose to depute somedne to Bombay and Bihar to enquire into the losses of South Indians there?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "The Government feel that the usual channels of communication and correspondence will be suffi-cient for the purpose."

SRI NIVARTHI VENKATASUBBAYYA:-" Has any representation been made to the Bengal Government regarding the safety of person and property of South Indians there and has any reply been received from that Government?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "I have already answered that there is no questann of Madras being separate from Bengal. We are all part of one administration under the Central Government in India. So anything that should be done to save the interests of the Provincials of this Province can only be done by communication between the Government of India, the Government of Bengal and the Government of Madras".

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- "The Hon. the Leader of the House stated that with reference to Bombay and Bihar the usual channel of correspondence would be resorted to make enquiries regarding the losses of South Indians. May I know why this procedure of sending a member of this House was adopted with reference to Bengal alone?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "Evidently, Sir, hon. Members who were on the Treasury Benches at that time thought that this was one method of causing an enquiry to be made. On the other hand, I have a very different opinion on this matter."

SRI M.G.NATESA CHETTIAR:- "May I know what are the special considerations which prevent the Members on the Treasury Benches

Benches now from adopting that method to safegurd the interests of South Indians in the Province like Bengal?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "What method has to be adopted in circumstances like these has to be decided as occasion arises."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB Bahadur:- " May I know, Sir, fore the representative of the adras Government was sent to engal, whether permission was obtained from the Bengal Govern ment for such an enquiry?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "There is no question of any permission. Any person can go into any part of India and cause an enquiry to be made. When the enquiry is made the Government can deal with the matter as occasion arises.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB Bahadur:- "May I know, Sir, what are the total losses suffered by the South Indians, How much of it was suffered by Tamilians, how much by Andhras, Malayalees and Kanarese?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "If the hon. Member wants an account of what has been done in a linguistic basis or communal basis, it may be very interesting, but it is a matter of losses of all the people concerned. I do not think any communal or linguistic question ~~arie~~ arises in this matter at all."

Sri NIVARTHI VENKATASUBBAYYA:- " When I put my supplementary question, I never meant that India is not one, that the Central Government has no powers to do anything in the matter. My anxiety was about the safety of South Indians in Bengal in the difficult conditions they are living to-day.

MR. SPEAKER:- "The Government understand the position of the Hon. Member."

SRI NIVARTHI VENKATASUBBAYYA:- "May I ask whether any representation has been made to the Central Government and what steps have been taken to ensure the safty of persons and property of South Indians in Bengal?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "I have already answered that I will have to get this question wholly examined."

SRI T. VISWANTHAM:- "May I know whether it is not a fact ~~that~~ that the Bengal Government was first addressed enquiring whether they would co-operate with Mr. D.V. Ramaswami and only after their reply was received he was deputed by this Government?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "The hon. Gentleman is perfectly correct."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB Bahadur:- "May I ask whether the Hon. Member, Mr. Viswanatham, has a right to make use of the information he was having at his disposal in his official capacity for putting this question?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "As far as I am concerned, I do not think the hon. Member, Mr. Viswanatham, is making use of anything which he came across officially. He was referring to something became across from other sources."

M.MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB Bahadur:- "May I know, Sir, whether the selection of the hon. Member, Mr. D.V. Ramaswami, for deputation to Bengal was made by the party or the Government?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "I think he was selected by the Government."

MOHAMED RAFEEUDIN AHAMED ANSARI SAHIB Bahadur:- " In answer to a supplementary question, the Hon. the Leader of the House stated that the Government did not pro-pose to send any representative of this Province to Bombay or Bihar. May I know why Bengal was specially selected for this sort of enquiry?".

MR. SPEAKER:- "I think the question has already been answered by the Hon. the Leader of the House."

MOHAMED RAFEEUDIN AHMED ANSARI SAHIB Bahadur:- "Is it because there is a Muslim League Ministry in Bengal? Is that the reason?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:-"I absolutely deny this allegation."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB Bahadur:- " Apart from the views of the present Government on the question of compensation, may I know whether the previous Government wanted to pay any compensation to these victims?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:- "I do not think any decisions were arrived at by the previous Government."

Public (General -A) department.

Draft note is put up below for approval. 350 copies of the Rep
Report may be taken and sent to the Madras Legistative Assembly
office for placing the report on the Table of the Assembly.

After issue the papers may be recorded.

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Secretary to Government.

G.O.Ms.2946 Public (General) dated 24-9-47.

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